

ABOVE GROUND

FEBRUARY
1997

Vol. 4
Issue 2

**Loneliness ...
Lust ... or Love?**

...page 16

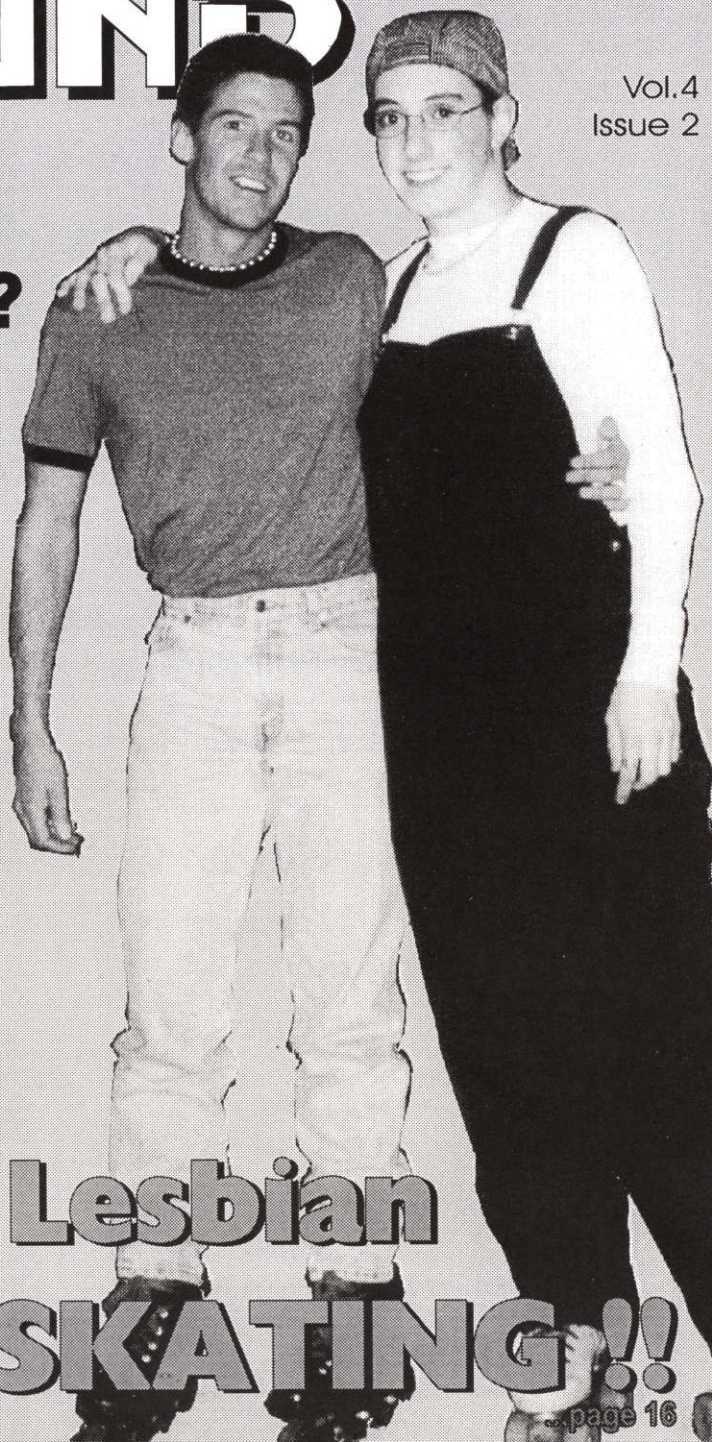
**The 1996 Quiz
Were You Paying
Attention?**

...page 10

**New Features:
Heavy "Pet-ing" ...page 24
Q-Puzzle ...page 19**

**It's Gay & Lesbian
ROLLER SKATING!!**

...page 16



DIAMONZ



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- Hurricane Drink
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- Costume judging
at midnight



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Friday, February 14th ...

Make Valentine's Day truly romantic!

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♥ A Special Valentine's Menu ♥

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OLDIES NIGHT

Friday, February 28th

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CONTENTS

A Look Back	4
Past Out	6
Harold the Bird	6
Coming Events	8
Liz out Loud	10
Distlefink	10
To Your Health	12
Music	14
Insights	16
Theatre	18
Q-Puzzle	19
Queer Science	20
The Drag Zone	21
Dykes with Tykes	22
Heavy "Pet-ing"	24
Cindy Girl	24
Horrorscoops	25
Community	
Resources	26
Classifieds	27

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ABOVEGROUND

PO Box 1656

Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Editor Speaks

You will notice a few changes in this issue, and will see more as we move through 1997. One change that we are not happy to make is the loss of our Book Reviewer, William Benson. Bill has had to give up the IN-Print column to dedicate more time to writing his own book. We wish Bill great success and will miss him. Anyone interested in taking on this task should call at the number below.

We have recently added /changed our phone numbers to make contacting us more easy. Our new office number is (610) 821-1381. The former number (610) 821-1321 will now be our fax number. Any voice calls made to the fax number will be intercepted by an answering device.

Happy Valentine's to all you Sweeties!!

Mitch Hemphill
Editor

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES

Liz Bradbury - 17
Kitsch-n-Ware - 25

ATTORNEYS

Steve Black - 23

BARS / NIGHTCLUBS

Candida - 14
Cartwheel - 11, 21
Diamonz - 2
Rainbow Mt. - 5
Selections - 9
Stonewall - 7, back cover

COUNSELING / THERAPY

Jacqueline Marish, M.A. - 25
Marjorie R. Rosen, M.Ed. - 12

DOCTORS

Family Health - 12
Dr. I. Rose PhD, MD - 13

FINANCIAL

American Express - 17

FUNERAL / MEMORIAL

Beth. Memorial Park - 13

MASSAGE THERAPY

Feather - 23
Gary - 19
Mike - 23

ADULT SERVICES & PROD.

Condoms Galore - 20
Psychic Line - 25
Male Line - 27

PRINTING

Rob-Win Press, Inc. - 16

REAL ESTATE & HOME SERVICES

Anderson Home Insp. - 23
Gail Hoover, Realtor - 22

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS

Hope Ministries - 23

RESORTS

Rainbow Mountain Resort - 5

RESTAURANTS & CATERING

Bay Leaf - 13
Goosey Gander - 19
Monterey - 4

MISC.

LGLV Roller Skating - 17
Open Space Gallery - 18

The businesses who advertise in AboveGround magazine make it possible to bring it to you each month. Just as they support our community and this publication, we urge you to support their businesses and to let them know that you saw their ad here, in AboveGround magazine.

4 A LOOK BACK



I gotta be me. . .



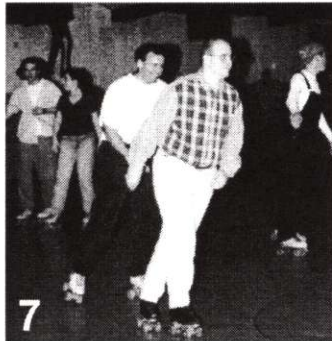
Make your
reservations
Today !

Friday, February 14

Bring your Funny Valentine to the
Monterey for a special Night to remember!
Special Menu - priced ala carte



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(610) 435-4080**



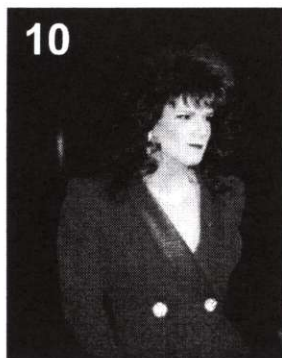
1. Newly crowned Ms. Diamonz for 1997, Regine Van Dorn takes her first royal walk.

2,3. Entertainment at the Ms. Diamonz pageant included live vocals by Galen as well as an appearance by "Wynonna."

4,5. A great time was had by all in attendance at the New Year's Eve celebration at Candida.

6,7,8. Participants at the LGLV Gay & Lesbian roller skating on January 21.

9,10. Dana Matthews and Brenda Starr were among the vibrant performers at Stonewall for the Corrine Michaels Show in January.



Sweetheart's Weekend

"Bring Your Funny Valentine"

February 7, 8 & 9

- Gay Newlywed Game
- Special Dinners for Two

BOOK TODAY FOR VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

• • • **BONNIE BOLAND**

Saturday, February 8th

• • • **MICHAEL FERRERI**

Saturday, February 15th

• • • **MALE STRIPPERS**

Friday, February 21st

• • • **KARAOKE**

Saturday, February 22nd

• • • **KATE & CJ**

Sunday, February 23rd

- Bingo in the Lizard Lounge Every Wednesday!
- Every Thursday is MEN'S NIGHT in the Lounge
- KARAOKE every Friday in February



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What were "blue discharges"?

During the Second World War, military personnel who were removed from service because of suspected or confirmed homosexuality were often given "Section Eight" discharges on blue paper, which became known as "blue discharges." The struggles of lesbian and gay veterans to overcome the discrimination and prejudice related to their blue discharges were among the first organized political struggles by gays and lesbians in the United States.

Blue discharges - which were also given for non-gay-related reasons - fell in a category between dishonorable discharges (which were usually given to military personnel convicted of homosexual acts) and honorable discharges (which were sometimes available to gay and lesbian soldiers with otherwise impeccable records). Still, they carried with them the stigma of less-than-honorable service as well as practical obstacles for the gay and straight soldiers and sailors who received them. Blue dischargees (whose stories are told in detail in Allan Berube's *Coming Out Under Fire*) would be stripped of their uniforms and medals and forced to return in shame to the draft boards of their home communities to present their discharge papers. The military justified these procedures in part as a way of discourag-

ing straight soldiers from feigning homosexuality to evade service.

But the worst indignity of the blue discharges was the denial of benefits under the GI Bill. Veterans with honorable discharges received thousands of dollars in monetary benefits in the areas of education, housing, and credit - but the Veterans Administration refused to make such benefits available to those with blue discharges.

Approximately one-fifth of the blue-discharge veterans were African-American, in part because some racist commanders used the blue discharge as a way to punish black soldiers and sailors in their command. In response to this inequity, black leaders - led by the black newspaper *The Pittsburgh Courier* - urged Americans to pressure the government to bring relief to those denied benefits because of their blue discharges.

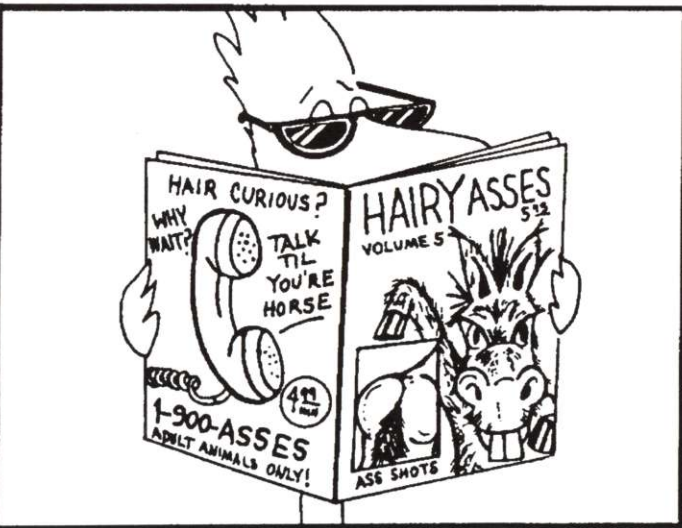
A congressional subcommittee chaired by Congressman Carl T. Durham of North Carolina investigated the situation, and its report (released on January 30, 1946) found fault with the system that punished the blue dischargees without any due process. It even singled out gay dischargees as victims of unfair treatment, charging that the Veterans Administration should be stopped "from passing moral verdicts on the history of any soldier." Blue discharges should be abolished, the report concluded.

The combination of public pressure and the Durham committee's report led to a temporary reprieve for holders of blue discharges, many of whom found success by appealing their individual cases. And in May 1947, the Army abolished the blue discharges alto-

gether, replacing it in most cases with a general discharge for unsuitability. But the good news was not shared by gays and lesbians, who were specifically excluded from receiving general discharges. More than one observer has linked this exclusion with the growing concern about rivalry with the Soviet Union, in which gays were seen as potential security risks.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of Modern Jewish History for Everyone, he can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

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Who are you to judge?

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And the Girls Behind the Wall - 12 AM

Wed. Feb 12 - JAGUAR & COMPANY

Showtime 11:30 PM

Wed. Feb 19 - CORRINE MICHAELS

Presents Va, Va, Voom! 11:30 PM

Wed. Feb 26 - DAME BETTY'S BABES

Featuring **Monica Rey**

" A COMEDY TONIGHT "

Sunday, February 16 • 11:00 PM

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The Girls Of The Lehigh Valley

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The Delvechio Sisters

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FERRERI**

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In the Lounge
SATURDAY
Feb. 8 & 22

**VALENTINE'S DAY
DANCE PARTY**

FRIDAY
February
14th



Restaurant • Piano Bar

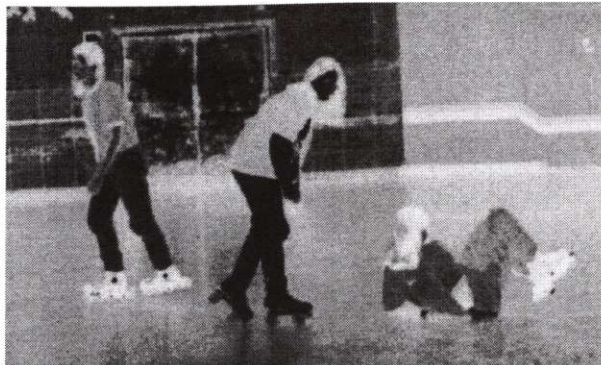
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28 North 10th Street Allentown, PA 610.432.0215

8 Coming Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Feb 3	Drag Search w/ Monica Rey	Cartwheel
5	Maxi Carter	Stonewall
5	Male Strippers	Cartwheel
5	PRIDE of the LV meeting	O.S. Gallery
6	9 Ball Pool Tournament	Diamonz
7	Meeting Gay Men of the LV	call
7	Mardi Gras Party	Diamonz
7,8&9	Sweetheart Weekend	Rainbow Mt.
8	Red Letter Day	Diamonz
8	Bonnie Boland	Rainbow Mt.
8	Michael Ferreri	Stonewall
10	Drag Search w/ Monica Rey	Cartwheel
12	Jaguar & Co.	Stonewall
12	Male Strippers	Cartwheel
14	Valentine Drag-A-Rama	Selections
15	Michael Ferreri	Rainbow Mt.
15	The Michael Dennis B-Day	Selections
15	Laurie Riccabono	Diamonz
15	Steve Brosky & Jake Kaligis	Candida
16	The 5th Annual Newlywed Game	Candida
16	Post-Valentine Party/Go-Go Boys	Cartwheel
16	"A Comedy Tonight" fundraiser	Stonewall
17	Drag Search w/ Monica Rey	Cartwheel
18	Gay & Lesbian Roller Skating	Skateaway
19	Corrine Michaels	Stonewall
19	Male Strippers	Cartwheel
20	Meeting LV Lesbians	call
21	Male Strippers	Rainbow Mt.
21	Latino Night	Diamonz
21&22	Mardi Gras Gala	Rainbow Mt.
22	Melissa Reeves	Diamonz
22	Michael Ferreri	Stonewall
23	Kate & CJ	Rainbow Mt.
24	Drag Search w/ Monica Rey	Cartwheel
25	LV G&L Prof. Network Meeting	Diamonz
26	Male Strippers	Cartwheel
26	Dame Betty's Babes w/ Monica	Stonewall
27	Dining Out For Life	Cartwheel
28	The annual Beach Party	Stonewall
28	Live Oldies Band	Diamonz

Note: The Coming Events section is provided as a voluntary service to the community. Due to the chance of typographical error, schedule changes, or inadequate source info we strongly suggest that you use it as a guide and call the individual organizations for more info and/or confirmation. Phone numbers can be found on page 22.



Gay & Lesbian Roller Skating

by Mitch Hemphill

"There's nothing to do around here if you don't go out to the bars!" How many times have you said, or heard this said over the past year?

It may be hard to find other gay and lesbian activities, but they do exist. There are the occasional gay bowling leagues, Pride Week and the Festival, the Velvet Spikers volleyball and tennis, and Gay & Lesbian ROLLER SKATING to name a few.

Now that the weather is not exactly how we may want it, there is no better time to check out this particular event. The Lehigh Valley chapter of the League of Gay & Lesbian Voters (LGLV) has been sponsoring a monthly gay & lesbian roller skating night now for more than a year. It is held the third Tuesday of every month at SKATEAWAY roller-rink in Whitehall, PA.

After attending on January 21, I was pleased to see that this event was drawing such a nice crowd. Surprisingly, not being a skater myself, I actually had a great time! The only thing I can't understand is why everyone isn't there!

If you are looking for something different to do with your "sisters" once a month, then this may be just the ticket for you. I am actually looking forward to February's date, and might even strap on a pair of skates and fall around the rink a bit!

For more information about the LGLV Gay & Lesbian Roller Skating Night, please see their ad on page 17 of this issue.

Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Professional Network Gets Up & Running

A new group is forming which may be of interest to gay and lesbian business owners and professionals in the Lehigh Valley. Initial interest in this new network is showing great potential for success. As of this printing, around thirty business owners and professionals have added their support to the fledgling group. Beginning in February, meetings will be held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at Diamonz in Bethlehem. For more information, please leave a message for Rose at 610-865-1028.

PARTY - PARTY - PARTY - WEEKEND

SELECTIONS

DOWNTOWN WILKES-BARRE

PROUDLY PRESENTS ...

- OUR -

VALENTINE DRAG-A-RAMA



It's the Party of the Winter !

Valentine's Day, Friday, Feb. 14

- FEATURING -

"Lady Francine & Her Stars"

- with -

• The Fabulous **MS. CORRINE MICHAELS**

• The One & Only **BRENDA STARR**

• The Classy **MS. VANESSA**

--- And Our Special Star & Emcee ---

• **SOPHIE TUCKER** •

AND

Saturday Night, February 15th
It Only Happens Once A Year !!

MICHAEL DENNIS' BIRTHDAY PARTY !

- featuring -

• **FREE BUFFET** •

For One And All !

• **HOT HOUSE DANCERS** •

For You Too !

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It's The Winter's Biggest Party Weekend !!

The 1996 Quiz

1996 was a big year for gay men and lesbians. Were you paying attention?

1. ENDA, the Employment NonDiscrimination Act, was the first piece of gay rights legislation considered federally. It : A. was passed in the Senate. B. missed passing the Senate by one vote. C. was overwhelmingly defeated in both houses. 2. Disney angered the religious right and was cheered by the gay community for offering domestic partnership benefits to gay employees. A. Disney is the first major entertainment company to do this. B. Elton John lobbied for this. C. All major entertainment companies offer these benefits. 3. In June the local 1996 Gay Pride Festival organized by "Pride of the Lehigh Valley" was attended by about: A. 875 people. B. 1900 people. C. 3400 people. 4. United States Gay Congressmen : A. are allowed health benefits for their konas (lovers). B. have only limited Capital Heath Club use. C. have a "separate" doctor in the Health Center. 5. Anne Frank's Diary has finally been released uncensored. The original version was "edited" because she wrote about: A. seeing two men having sex. B. her erotic feelings about images of nude women. C. masturbation. 6. In the infamous "Jenny Jones" case Jonathan Schmitz was accused of killing Scott Amadure. He was found guilty of: A. first degree murder. B. sec-

ond degree murder. C. manslaughter. 7. Jack Kemp once said that Bob Dole's library : A. had only bibles. B. was the size of the Library of Congress. C. had two books and Bob hadn't finished coloring one of them yet. 8. The AIDS Memorial Quilt exhibited in Washington was equal in size to this number of football fields. A. 10. B. 28. C. 42. 9. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has: A. fired people because they were presumed to be gay. B. it's own don't ask don't tell policy. C. recruitment ads in national gay magazines like "The Advocate". 10. Roberta Achtenburg's former title was: A. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. B. Assistant Secretary of State. C. Director of Health, Education and Welfare. 11. Gay or Canadian? A. Paul Schafer B. Chastity Bono C. Martin Short D. Steve Gunderson E. Anthony Perkins F. Ginny Apouzzo G. k.d. lang H. Dan Butler I. Agnus Moorehead 12. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe: A. is openly gay. B. attempted to ban gay literature at an international book fair. C. jailed American AIDS activists without a trial. 13. The name of Candace Gingrich's book is : A. "The Accidental Activist: A personal and political memoir". B. "A Mote in the Eye of Newt". C. "The Family Has Two Faces". 14. A 1996 California poll of all voters indicated the percentage who believe lesbians and gay men deserve equal employment rights is: A. 40%. B. 65%. C. 90%. 15. Michael Will-hotte, author of "Daddy's Roommate" has written a second book for kids entitled: A. "Daddy's Wedding". B. "Heather Has Two Mommies". C. "The Big Parade". 16. In December, same-sex couples in Hawaii won their "right to marry case" in court. It is now: A. the law. B. moot because of DOMA. C. being appealed to the Hawaii Supreme Court as expected. 17. South Africa's new Constitution out-laws: A. any public acts of affection. B. discrimination against gay men and lesbians. C. books that mention homosexuality.



Answers: 1.B, 2.C, 3.C, 4.A, 5.B, 6.B, 7.C, 8.C, 9.C, 10.A, 11.(a-c,b-G,c-c,d-G,e-G,f-G,g-both,h-G,i-G), 12.B, 13.A, 14.C, 15.A, 16.C, 17.B

Make sure your ad reaches the people who are looking for your services.

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The Lehigh Valley's only gay and lesbian monthly publication of news, views, events and entertainment!

call:
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flawless FEBRUARY



LADIES 2000 PARTY

Sunday Feb. 9

- Doors open at 3PM
- Open Bar 3-4PM
- Complimentary Buffet
- Christian Daizey in the Piano Lounge

Valentine's WEEKEND



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**Bring your Valentine out
for a Special Treat!**

Café Mo

- ♥ Candlelit Dinner ♥
- ♥ Romantic Entrees For Two ♥
- ♥ Complimentary Glass of Champagne ♥
- ♥ Free Admission To the Disco (with entree order) ♥

FRI. FEB 14

**Have a Valentine?
COME PARTY
TOGETHER
AT THE
CARTWHEEL!**

*Don't Have a
Valentine? ...*
**COME MEET
YOUR NEW
VALENTINE
AT THE
CARTWHEEL!**

SUN. FEB 16

**Post
Valentine's
Day Party**

*Got rid of your
1997 Valentine
ALREADY?!*

**Meet Your
'98 Valentine
Tonight!**

Happy Hour 9-11 PM

**Go-Go
BOYS**
11 PM - 1 AM

Thursday, February 27

DINING OUT FOR LIFE!

Come enjoy a wonderful Gourmet Dinner from our new menu in the newly remodeled Café Mo, and help a worthy cause!

It's all happening at...



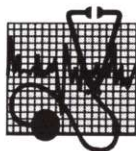
CARTWHEEL

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...Of Course!

12 To Your Health

by Dr. John Cochran



An Eye for an Eye

The old lyric, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone..." rings true when it comes to eye health. Oftentimes, we take some things for granted in life - but the health of our eyes cannot be one of them. The ability to see, and to see properly, is a gift we should protect as best we can. Fortunately, natural alternatives are available that can not only prevent eye illnesses, but also help treat them.

It is estimated that by the time 60 percent of the American population reach adulthood, they will require vision correction. Experts are confirming that our eyes, just as other organs and structures within the body, require proper nutrition effectively. In fact, natural medicine researchers believe many of the eye problems that exist today are caused, in part, by poor dietary habits and /or nutritional deficiencies.

Specific foods can contribute to eye disease and or impaired vision such as sugar, eggs, dairy products, fats, wheat, fried and processed foods. An elimination diet will indicate whether any of these foods are causing your eye problems. In addition, you should avoid or reduce alcohol, tobacco and coffee intake.

Every day the human eye is exposed to ultraviolet light and other damaging influences. As a result, harmful free radicals form in the lens of the eye, and the oxidation of lens proteins by these free radicals is believed to play an important role in the development of cataracts.

The most ideal "eye" diet will include antioxidant rich foods such as; dark green leafy vegetables and antioxidant supplementation to help reduce toxic buildup and lessen free radical damage. It has been clearly shown and widely reported that antioxidants can pre-

vent and possibly treat most common eye problems such as, Glaucoma, Cataracts, Macular Degeneration, and Conjunctivitis (pink eye). Antioxidant nutrients, such as, vitamins C and E and Beta Carotene protect the eye from oxidative damage, which is a key cause of eye problems, particularly in the elderly.

Bioflavonoids, along with antioxidants, will also help nourish the eyes. Bioflavonoids contain anthocyanosides, which are blue - red pigments found in berries. Bioflavonoids aid in normal collagen metabolism, prevent breakdown of vitamin C, improve capillary integrity, and stabilize the collagen matrix by preventing free radical damage. Bilberry is one of the most powerful herbal bioflavonoids for the eyes. Bilberry extracts have been used with good results in reducing near-sightedness, improving night vision, and reversing diabetic retinopathy. Some prescription drugs have serious side effects. The Physicians Desk Reference lists 94 medications that can cause Glaucoma, including anti-hypertensives, steroids, and antidepressants.

Taking our sight and the health of our eyes for granted may be easy, but it is not wise. As always, prevention remains a critical part of eye health. An effective eye health program includes a diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables and supplementation with antioxidant nutrients and bilberry for the treatment of key eye conditions. Eye problems do not have to be an inevitable part of growing old. Research regarding natural medicines for the eyes is very strong. Effective prevention plans and safe treatment programs exist with the use of natural medicine.

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Music

by
C. Robert Frank

February, the red and white month.

If red is your color for Valentine L'amour, make sure you grab the new ENIGMA CD *Le Roi Est Mort, Vive Le Roi!* Okay, so the title translates as "The King Is Dead, Long Live The King!" Not the most romantic of titles, but the music is truly dreamy. New technology in digital sound has been exploited to its fullest extent, leaving the listener gasping for untold passions. In short, this album will make you moist.

If February red makes you angry, check out FUNKY GREEN DOGS full length album, *Get Fired Up*. The number one cross-over hit "Fired Up" is featured, along with the new club smash, "Why?" Playing this one loud should keep your neighbors banging on your walls for at least an hour ... a theory I have personally tested a few times with fabulous results.

Hopefully the only white this February will be the party and not snow. If you can't make it to New York, you might want to drop a few bucks on *The White Party* album. It is a bit on the house side compared to the progressive/NRG sounds of Buc, Gluck, or Morabito, but any compilation that includes the white anthem "Where Love Lives" is all right with me. *Best Cerone* is another happy-go-lucky winner to shake away those winter blues. This remix set serves up tasty morsels by (the misspelled) Frankie Knuckles and David Morales. It also includes the hard to find ERASURE cover of "Supernature" mixed by William Orbit.

Moving on to the dance floor, hard is back ... no, not the half-naked bodies, the music. Here are a few ditties you might want to request the next time you're out (any request is better than that Evita number which you know we're going to play whether you annoy us by asking for it or not). Junior has put the twirl back into Whitney "Windbag" with his aggressive mixes of "Step By Step." Karen Finley lovers will probably dig the new mixes of "People Hold On" by Lisa Stansfield. And anyone with a New York state of mind will enjoy a good "Bump" (by BOMB SQUAD) before they "Give It Up" (Victor Calderone).

'Til next month, it's February ... have a heart!

Editor's note: In the previous issue we made a typo that changed the meaning of C. Robert Frank's column. It should have read, "...Pretty scary when mainstream America listens to gay-er music than what's played at a gay club."

RESPONDANCE





Where good friends have Great times!



**Spring
POOL
LEAGUE**
beginning
Wed., Feb 19
8:00 PM



**\$1
Tooters!
Every
Saturday
2-6PM**

**Earn ...
CANDIDA
"Dollars"**



Collect them
every Mon-Fri (2-6pm)
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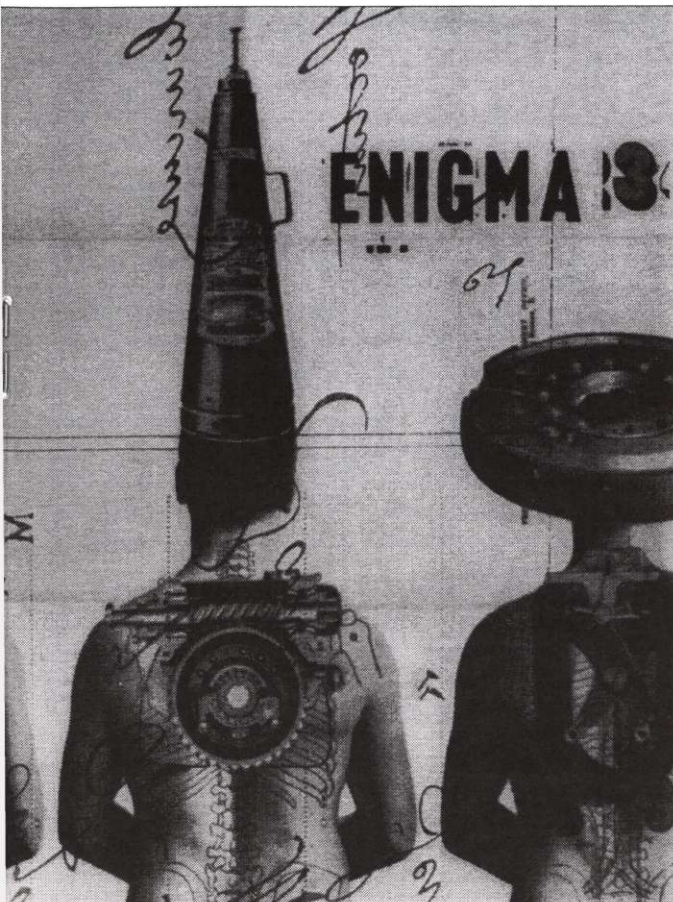
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GINA G
3. Never Miss The Water
CHAKA KHAN
4. No One Can Love U More
HANNAH JONES
5. Step By Step
WHITNEY HOUSTON
6. Say...If You Feel Alright
CRYSTAL WATERS
7. Ultra Flava
HELLER & FARLEY PROJECT
8. Don't Stop Movin'
LIVIN' JOY
9. Wannabe
SPICE GIRLS
10. Son Of A Preacherman
SOUL S.K.

DJ : Liz Flynn

Club: DIAMONZ / Bethlehem

1. Don't Cry For Me Argentina
MADONNA
2. Keep Pushin
BORIS DLUGOSCH
3. Wannabe
SPICE GIRLS
4. Like It Like That
BLACK OUT ALL STARS
5. Step By Step
WHITNEY HOUSTON
6. Report To The Dancefloor
INNER SOUL
7. Color Of Love
AMBER
8. Do You Miss Me
JOCELYN ENRIQUEZ
9. Don't Miss The Water
CHAKA KHAN
10. Unbreak My Heart
TONI BRAXTON

VIDEO

DJ : David Petrilla

Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. Step By Step
WHITNEY HOUSTON
2. Don't Cry For Me I'm A Tuna
MADONNA
3. Whenever There Is Love
B.ROBERTS & D.SUMMER
4. Sugar Is Sweeter
C.J. BOLLAND
5. Sinful Wishes
OUTTA CONTROL
6. Insomnia
FAITHLESS
7. Stop!
LOVE PATROL
8. The World Is Changing
ANGELA BOWIE
9. The Gift
WAY OUT WEST
10. Female Of The Species
SPACE

VJ : Michael Leidy

Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. Over And Over (club mix)
PUFF JOHNSON
2. Sugar Is Sweeter (bonus mix)
C.J. BOLLAND
3. I'm Not Giving You Up (mx)
GLORIA ESTEFAN
4. The Gift
WAY OUT WEST
5. Music
DOLCE GABANA
6. Different Languages (club mix)
HOLLY PALMER
7. If You Really Love Me (uncut ver.)
LONNIE GORDON
8. The Box
ORBITAL
9. Get Away
SHAUNA DAVIS
10. Higher (big red vid-mix)
GLORIA ESTEFAN





Loneliness ... Lust ... or Love?

February ... a tough month. Of course the other months can be tough too. But February contains Valentine's Day with all its media hype to trigger our emotions. Most of us want a relationship and we don't have to be ashamed of such a basic, healthy need. The difficulty is that our basic, healthy need may not be as healthy as we want to believe it is. Our need for a relationship may be due to unspoken fear of being alone, facing life by ourselves and being overwhelmed by that thought. If we enter a relationship to fill that need (and most of us over 25 fall into that category) our relationship won't bring the happiness we're expecting. The bond that we build with a partner based on fear is a bond that cannot be solid, supportive or mature.

We all know the "humor" of the third date being the U-Haul! As social outcasts our loneliness is deeper and scarier which makes us more vulnerable to serial relationships. And yet the ultimate goal of growing up is more a matter of achieving a mutually satisfying relationship than it is of proving independence or power, wealth, fame. A mutually satisfying relationship can be, and usually is, harder work

than your career. But, the rewards are more powerful in their effect on us than power, money, prestige. This is why people of power and fame reveal that their lives are not without struggle. Extraordinary success can be hollow if there is no one who cares. Conversely, we can rise above life's struggles when we have someone who intimately and supportively shares our struggles.

Love and commitment are essential to a healthy relationship. Love and commitment however are not enough to sustain a relationship over the long haul. We need to look at cooperation, compatibility, emotional support and intimacy.

Cooperation means dealing with conflicts so that resolution brings a sense that both partners are understood, respected and satisfied with the results. Relationship is not a competitive sport. Cooperation means a "we" approach to solving a difference of opinion.

Compatibility means the ability to create a home in which both partners accept and affirm similarities as well as differences. Respecting that differences are not wrong means we don't have to like the difference, but we cannot judge our partner as wrong (exactly what we want from society). Compatibility means creating a lifestyle that feels good to be a part of.

Emotional support is an absolute for a healthy relationship. We do that by asking our partner what they need from us so that they feel our love, caring and support. We need to know that they need us to listen without interruption, to hold them when feelings get hurt, to offer words of praise and encouragement when they're working to change something.

Another absolute essential is intimacy. While we need physical intimacy, we also need conversational and emotional intimacy. Intimacy requires a sense of acceptance, understanding without judgment, criticizing or pressuring. When we feel safe we can give ourselves willingly, spontaneously and enjoyably.

We all yearn for a special closeness where we're loved for our strengths, in spite of our flaws. respect is the heart of a healthy relationship. Any day of the year will be happy to receive the heart and flowers of our love.



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THE LARK Opens at Allentown College Theatre

CENTER VALLEY, PA – *The Lark*, a modern re-telling of the story of Joan of Arc by French playwright Jean Anouilh opens Feb. 12 on Allentown College Theatre's ACT ONE main stage. The production, using American playwright Lillian Hellman's English adaptation, will run for 11 performances through Feb. 23 at the Labuda Center for the Performing Arts in Center Valley. ACT ONE is the main stage production arm of Allentown's nationally known Performing and Fine Arts Department.

The Lark is based on the heresy trial of this simple French farm girl who braved ridicule and danger to keep faith with her heavenly voices and the mission they gave her to save king and country from English invaders. Joan is one of history's most famous political and ecclesiastical victims, and an enduring symbol of simple faith and heroic courage. Her character has made an indelible imprint on the Western imagination for over 500 years, fascinating authors as diverse as George Bernard Shaw, the German poet Schiller, and American writers Mark Twain and Maxwell Anderson.

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- 1 Wile E. Coyote's preferred brand
- 5 One may do it on a dime
- 9 Tom Hanks, vis-a-vis *Philadelphia*
- 13 Eccentrics
- 15 Margarethe Cammermayer, for example
- 16 Drag queen's need
- 17 Lesbian comedian
- 19 Leave out
- 20 Baseball legend Mel
- 21 Part of B.B.C.
- 22 Pundit
- 23 __ Lanka
- 24 Lesbian comedian
- 27 Tic-__toe
- 28 Stone or Stallone
- 29 Long, long time
- 30 Seeds of a sort
- 31 Espionage org.
- 33 God of the Koran
- 35 Lesbian comedian
- 41 Like a crossword puzzle
- 42 IBM alternative
- 43 Liberal org.
- 46 Under the weather
- 47 Go out with
- 50 Bob Dornan?
- 52 Lesbian comedian
- 55 Calendar abbr.
- 56 Teaspoonfuls, perhaps
- 57 Subject to the gallows
- 58 Screw up
- 59 *The African Queen* screenwriter
- 60 Lesbian comedian
- 63 A lunatic loses it
- 64 Real-estate unit
- 65 March on Washington, for one
- 66 Matched groups
- 67 Troubles
- 68 Sword part

DOWN

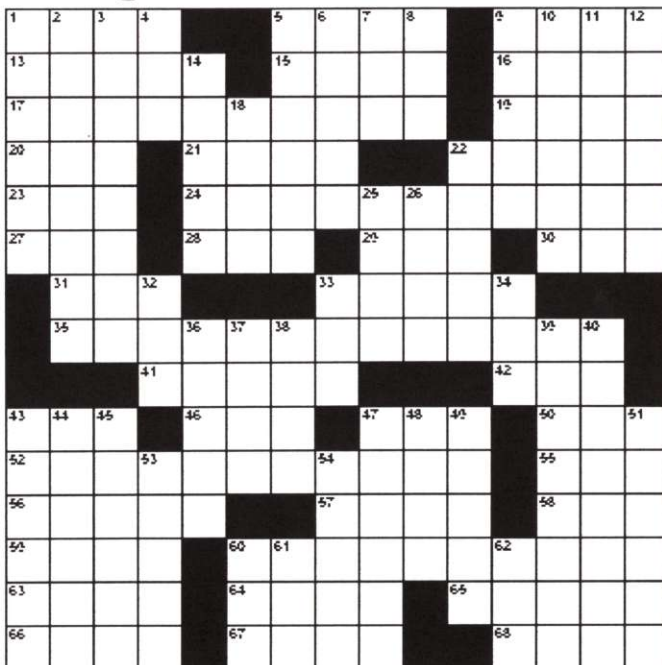
- 1 Close but no cigar
- 2 Where to park your parka?
- 3 With 43-Down, Gomez's creepy wife
- 4 Chang's conjoined twin
- 5 *Get __* (De Vito/Travolta flick)
- 6 City near Phoenix
- 7 Lode load
- 8 PWA mag
- 9 Exhibited
- 10 Attacker in a 1980 cult film
- 11 *I, Robot* author
- 12 Eye part
- 14 Tackles the quarterback
- 18 Finding a boyfriend, to many gay men
- 22 Moses's mount
- 25 Prison portion
- 26 Recline lazily

- 32 Semicircle
- 33 Lend a hand
- 34 Christmas dinner entree
- 36 Inventor Howe
- 37 Void's partner
- 38 Not 46-Across
- 39 Learned inside and out
- 40 Brillo Pad's purpose
- 43 See 3-Down
- 44 __ *Howser, M.D.*
- 45 Agreement
- 47 Black suit?
- 48 __ *Kleine Nachtmusik*
- 49 Birdie beater
- 51 Scold
- 53 Nourishes
- 54 Windy City airport
- 60 It has a long arm
- 61 Logical start?
- 62 " __ Maria"

Solution to puzzle
in Next Month's
Issue

"Lesbian Laughter"

Q-Puzzle



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20 **QUEER** Science

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

What Turns You On . . . delta-4,16-androstadien-3-one, or 1,3,5(10),16-estratetraene-3-ol? And is that why you're gay?

Those unromantic-sounding formulas are the chemical names for two substances that, according to some scientists, play a central role in our love lives. They are, if these scientists are to be believed, "human sex pheromones" - chemical signals put out by men (the delta one) and by women (the 1,3,5 one). Supposedly, they are detected by a special sense organ inside our nose, and they set off a flurry of activity in the unconscious parts of our brain - telling us, in effect, what's hot and what's not.

Let me say right away that this whole story is very incomplete and speculative, and should be treated with healthy skepticism until it's

better documented. But it's an intriguing insight into how relatively simple biological mechanisms might have major effects on our sexual behavior - behavior that we usually attribute to upbringing and experience.

It's long been known that animals such as rats, hamsters, and pigs, that rely heavily on their sense of smell, also use smell to identify their sex partners and to determine if their partners are sexually receptive. These animals have a special region in the base of the nasal cavity, called the vomeronasal organ, that contains sensory cells that detect sex pheromones. The sensory cells send signals to parts of the brain, such as the hypothalamus, that are involved in producing sexual behavior. If the vomeronasal organ of a young male hamster is destroyed, it will not approach and mount females. But if the hamster is already sexually experienced, destroying the sense organ has less effect. It's as if the pheromonal system is important for first figuring out who is an appropriate sex partner.

About ten years ago, a group of researchers at the University of Toronto, led by Robert Josephson, discovered that humans also have a vomeronasal organ. And in 1991, Luis Monti-Bloch and Bernard Grassler of the University of Utah reported that there's a sex difference: nerve cells in the vomeronasal organs of men and women respond to different chemicals. They didn't name the chemicals, which were supplied by a biotechnology company named Erox. But the company has applied for patents for the two substances mentioned earlier. These substances are metabolites (breakdown products) of male and female sex hormones, and they may be released into the air through the skin, especially the skin of the pubic region and the armpits, where warmth and thick hair help the substances evaporate.

Erox markets two perfumes, Realm Men and Realm Women, that may contain these substances. Realm Men is said to contain the compound produced by women that excites men's vomeronasal organ, while Realm Women contains the compound produced by men that excites the women's organ. That may sound strange - wouldn't a heterosexual man want to wear a perfume that turns women on, not men? Presumably, Erox believes that the important thing is the effect a perfume has on the person who wears it, not on the people he or she is trying to attract. And what red-blooded heterosexual man would feel good sniffing something extracted from guys' armpits all day?

Which brings us to gays and lesbians. Could it be that our vomeronasal organs respond differently - that gay men's sense organs respond to the male pheromone, and lesbians' sense organs respond to the female pheromone - perhaps as a result of genetic differences in the development of the nose? Could it be that this is what first turns us on to our own sex, and that later we learn by association to like the look and sound of people that have the correct smell?

Perhaps this is all bad science and corporate hype. No one, for example, has even shown that the vomeronasal organ has any connections to the brain in humans. And there is little reason to think that human sex pheromones, even if they exist, have a formative influence on our sex lives. But if it were true, how nice! No need to waste money on Realm Gay or Realm Lesbian. There's plenty of the right stuff in your own armpits.

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THE DRAG ZONE...



[Note: In a previous column about a sex-reassigned twin, the University of Hawaii researcher who tracked down the twin was misidentified. It was Dr. Milton Diamond.]

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996) and the forthcoming gay techno-thriller, *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak/Masquerade Books). He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of this publication or at SLeVay@aol.com.

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Dykes with Tykes

by Michelle Zimmer

When my son first came home from school clutching a Karate flyer he had received in school and announced his desire to take Karate classes I thought it was a great idea.

Now, five belts and a whole lot of money later, I'm kind of wishing the whole thing would end. It's not that I don't think the Karate classes are a good thing for the kids. They are learning discipline and self control. They are learning how to defend themselves, which actually may come in handy some day if anyone gives them any crap about the fact that they have two Moms.

What I didn't anticipate when we signed the kids up for the first class was that my ex would want to be so involved. This is the man who didn't want to participate in Lamaze classes because they took place at the same time M*A*S*H was on. Now he's bucking for Dad of the Year. Jeff wants to pick him up for every class and attend every tournament and test.

With Kay's kids in Karate too, we all ride to Karate class together - one big happy family. Three kids, me, my lover and my ex hus-

band. I don't know, maybe it's just me, but it feels a little weird. There the three of us sit in the school gym, Jeff on one side of me, Kay on the other. Very civil and very strange.

Something I'd forgotten about Jeff is his amazing ability to choose the most inappropriate settings to talk about the most inappropriate things - and he can't whisper. A typical Karate class has the three of us sitting against the gymnasium wall watching the kids kicking and punching. Jeff is on one side of me muttering in a tone audible to most everyone in the room. His sentences are peppered with curse words and he laughs loudly at his own jokes.

After about the first Goddamn and sonofabitch the parents around us begin to raise their eyebrows and shoot us dirty looks. Kay feigns great interest in the instructions the Sensei is giving the kids, trying, I'm sure, to pretend she knows neither of us, I just squirm from the uncomfortableness of the situation.

Jeff, whose only participation in sports in his lifetime amounted to curling beers from the couch in front of a televised football game, runs the gamut from overbearing to over defensive. As he watches Brent doing his Karate exercises he mutters things like More power! Jeez what's the matter with him?

But if the Sensei corrects Brent he turns to me and hisses "Can't he see he's tired? Why is he being so hard on him?" by the time we leave Karate class I am exhausted from the stress of sitting next to this man for an hour all the while trying to somehow mentally transport myself somewhere far, far away.

Gail Hoover

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Recently, as we were vegging at home, feeling particularly lazy, Kay came up with a surprising idea. Why don't we take Karate? I looked up at her from my ice cream sundae and responded Excuse me? I don't think I heard you correctly. I thought you just suggested we take Karate."

I did. I think it would be fun. I think you may be forgetting a few things like Karate jumping jacks and knuckle push ups. I'm doing good to push the vacuum across the living room floor.

Kay shrugged and let the idea drop. But since then I've been giving the idea some more thought. It is good for women to have self defense skills and as the boys are getting bigger learning how to spar with them may come in handy. Most importantly getting into the class would get me off the gymnasium wall and away from Jeff - and that would be worth a lifetime of Karate jumping jacks and knuckle push ups!



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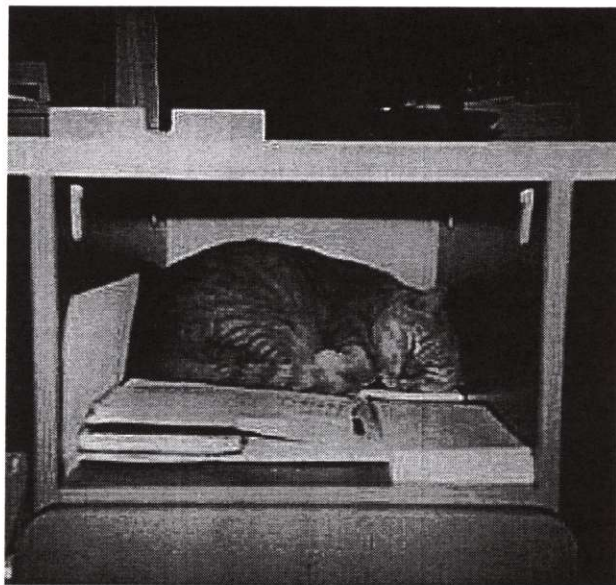
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AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb.18

Plan Ahead!!! You will be taking large
important trip this spring, need to
flesh out details by the end of the
month or it will never fly! Don't forget
to let others help you, they are your
assets not your enemies.



PISCES
Feb.19-March 20

Romance blooms - NOT! You will
find yourself alone on Valentine's
night, but never fear, good things
come to those who wait. Don't be
discouraged by the fact that all your
friends have someone else,
remember, you still have yourself.



ARIES
March 21-April 19

Why are you backpedaling?!?!?! You
were on the right track, regardless of
how much you thought it hurt, now is
not the time to fall back into old habits
because you are scared. Hold off on
that "big move". Think things all the
way through.



TAURUS
April 20-May 20

Financial picture brightens early this
month. Don't spend it all in one
place, you will need it for that trip you
have been thinking of taking. Put
some away, rainy days ahead.



GEMINI
May 21-June 20

I know what you are thinking, and you
are WRONG!!! There is more than
one person involved here, and you
have failed to see that in recent
months. You can't be happy with
someone else until you are happy
with yourself. THINK!!!!



CANCER
June 21-July 22

Take the opportunity that the cold
weather will afford you this month to
catch up on household chores.
Organize that closet, clean out the
cobwebs. You will be doing a lot of
unexpected entertaining next month,
and you will thank me later.



LEO
July 23-Aug.22

Karma is unbalanced! You need to
start making restitution to people who
you count on. It isn't very often that
we get a second chance to make up
for our mistakes. You make your own
fate, it is up to you which way the
wind blows.



VIRGO
Aug.23-Sept.22

Long road ahead these next few
months. This month marks the
beginning of a path you never thought
possible this late in the game. Take a
chance on yourself and your talents,
you won't be disappointed.



LIBRA
Sept.23-Oct.22

Recent disappointments in the Arts
left you feeling unsure of yourself. It
really shows, and there isn't a need to
be down on yourself. These things
take time ... you have plenty of that.
Keep a stiff upper lip, and don't let
them think they've beaten your spirit.



SCORPIO
Oct.23-Nov.21

Lunar cycle indicates money is on it's
way to you. Be sure to take
calculated risks at work. Your insight
and planning will guarantee financial
gains. Be sure to spread the wealth to
those less fortunate, it is good for the
soul.



SAGITTARIUS
Nov.22-Dec.21

Plan for the future. Unique opportunity
will not be granted again in this
lifetime. Don't forget, there are other
not-so-obvious solutions to your family
needs. One who has been there from
the start holds the key to making this
chance work.



CAPRICORN
Dec.22-Jan.19

Cupid had shot you in the rump, and
it hurts!! New job and new
possibilities present themselves to
you this month. Take time to make
educated decision and enjoy your
partner. You are on the right track,
don't blow it!

Community Resources

Bars / Clubs

ALLENTOWN

Candida

247 N. 12th St.
610-434-3071

Stonewall & Moose Lounge

28 N. 10th St.
610-432-0215

BETHLEHEM

Diamondz

1913 W. Broad St.
610-865-1028

EAST

STROUDSBURG

Rainbow Mountain

RD 8 Box 8174
717-223-8484

HARRISBURG

B-TLS

891 Eisenhower Blvd.
717-939-1123

Neptune Lounge

268 North St.
717-233-3078

Stallions

706 N. 3rd St.
717-232-3060

NEW HOPE

Cartwheel

Route 202
215-862-0880

Raven

385 W. Bridge St.
215-862-2081

READING

Excentrix

124 N. 4th St.
610-376-4650

Scarab

724 Franklin St.
610-375-7878

SCRANTON

The Buzz

133 N. Washington Ave.
717-969-0900

Bars / Clubs

WILKES-BARRE

Selections

45 Public Square
717-829-4444

AIDS Related Organizations

AIDS Outreach

112 N. 5th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-435-8424

• *AIDS Services Center*

60 W. Broad St.
Suite 205
Bethlehem, PA 18108
610-974-8701

• *Allentown Health Bureau*

HIV testing
245 N. 6th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
(contact David Moyer)
610-437-7742

• *FACT*

P.O. Box 1028
Allentown, PA 18105
610-820-5519

• *FACT Bucks County*

P.O. Box 616
Buckingham, PA 18912

• *Latino AIDS Outreach*

610-861-6845

• *Wyoming Valley AIDS Council*

P.O. Box 2677
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703
717-823-5808

• *Wayne Pike AIDS Council*

P.O. Box 1131
Honesdale, PA 18431
800-866-7281

• *We Care HIV/AIDS Support Network*

P.O. Box 1013
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703
717-824-1007

If your organization would like to be listed in AboveGround, Call (610)821-1381 or write P.O. Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Religious Affiliations

Grace Covenant Fellowship

913 Hamilton Mall.
Allentown, PA 18101
610-740-0247

Hope Ministries

Rev. Bob J. Forté
610-791-0716
24 hrs.-leave message.

Integrity

610-395-1785
610-758-8642

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

Unitarian Universalist Church
424 Center St.
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

Phoenix Independent Outreach Ministries

Rev. Joel S. Diehl, DD, MsD.
610-437-9447 leave message

Unitarian Universalist Church of the L.V.

424 Center St.
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-866-7652

Zen Buddhist Sangha

Ongoing meditation meetings
610-559-8136
leave message

Community/Social/Support Organizations

Berks Gay & Lesbian Alliance

P.O. Box 417
Reading, PA 19603-0417
610-373-0674

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley

Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

GLORA

Gays & Lesbians Of Reading & Allentown
P.O. Box 1952
Allentown, PA 18105

Community/Social/Support Organizations (cont.)

• *League of Gay & Lesbian Voters*

Lehigh Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 20781
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-0781
610-432-5449

• *Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force*

P.O. Box 20253
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-868-3388

• *Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus*

P.O. Box 20712
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-740-0247
610-821-0578

• *Lehigh Valley Lesbians*

Bethlehem, PA
610-253-5454

• *Live and Let Live, Gays & Lesbians in A.A.*

Meetings Weds. 8PM
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Front & Windsor Sts., Reading

• *North Eastern Pennsylvania TransGender Assoc.*

P.O. Box 3624
Allentown, PA 18106
E-mail: GendrFrend@aol.com
610-821-2955

• *P-Flag*

Memb. Info: 215-368-2473
Newsletter: 215-234-4049
Support: 610-820-9838

• *PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley*

P.O. Box 20804
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-770-6200

• *Renaissance*

Education Assoc., Inc
P.O. Box 2122
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122
717-780-1578

• *Velvet Spikers* volleyball-tennis

P.O. Box 21862
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-1862
610-434-2966

• *Q'Zine: A Weekly Queer Audio Magazine*

• Sundays at 8:00pm with Keith Brand & Robert Drake
88.5 fm WXPB - Philadelphia
88.1 fm WXPB - Harrisburg
104.9 fm WXPB - Lehigh Valley

MALE FRIENDS

GWM 38 6' 200lbs Seeking Local
GWM 30-40 Years Old for Lasting
Friendship or Monog Relationship.
I Do NOT do Drugs. I Enjoy
Bowling, Swimming, Baseball,
Dining Out, Travelling and Quiet
Times. Call 610-437-1235.
Ask for Bill.

Introspective, Growth Oriented,
Loving SWM 27/5'11"/150# a Alone
in Carbon County. I seek a slender
SWM 25-30 / Spiritual /
Conscientious / Competent for
Friendship First. We will enjoy the
Outdoors, the Arts, Fun &
Conversation. Write Dean @ PO
Box 21714 Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-1714. No Drugs or Games!

NEED EXTRA CASH ??

Sell ads for **AboveGround** in your Area.
For info Call: 610-821-1381

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR AS LITTLE AS \$5

FILL OUT FORM AT BOTTOM
AND SEND TO: AboveGround P.O.
Box 1656, Allentown, PA 18105-
1656

FOR SALE

Professionally mixed Music for
Fabulous Parties!!

... just like being out at the Club!!

Dance Tapes for All Partiers!

Over 20 tapes to choose...

...From Classic Disco to House.

Call: DJ CHRIS

For catalog

610-435-9383

WANTED

REHOBOTH RIDESHARE.

TAKE TURNS. (FEES VOID
INSURANCE!)

CALL: 215-579-2583 FOR LIST

REAL ESTATE - SALE

Is your Dream Home a beautiful
Victorian? The current owners
hate to leave, but this growing
family needs more room. You
can take advantage of their need
to move, and make this lovely
Victorian with all of its own charm
(fireplace, natural wood, exposed
brick, modern kitchen & bath, 2
car garage) ...Yours!

Call Gail Hoover, Realtor PATT-
WHITE CO. REALTORS at 610-
433-7919.

APARTMENT - RENT

1-Bedroom centrally located Apt
with Unique design & Laundry
Fac. Secure Building. Avail. Imm.
\$435/Mo. + Util. Sec. Dep.,
Credit Approv., and refs. required.
No Dogs. Call 610-434-6067
after 5PM for Appt.

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

- ☐ male friends ☐ female friends ☐ help wanted ☐ services
☐ for sale ☐ messages ☐ roommates ☐ wanted ☐ pets
☐ real estate-rent ☐ real estate-sale ☐ misc ☐ other _____

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cost of lines ☒ number of issues=

Anything submitted to AboveGround must be received by the 15th of the month to be
published in the following month's issue. Anything received after that date will be held
over to the next issue.

Name(optional) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone(optional) _____

RATES

1-4 lines	\$ 5.00
5-10 lines	\$10.00
11-15 lines	\$15.00

INSTRUCTIONS

Fill out the boxes at left exactly as you
would like your ad to appear. Leave a
space between each word. Check the
heading you would like to have your ad
run under. Calculate the price based
on number of lines and send check or
money order made payable to
"COBALT BLUE" along with form to:

AboveGround
PO Box 1656
Allentown, PA 18105-1656

AboveGround reserves the right
to edit ads as needed or to
refuse any ad for any reason.
You must be 18 or older to place
or respond to any ad.

**if you would like a full-issue-copy
of your ad, include \$1.50 for P&H

eXXXtasy!

Are you dreaming of hot young guys
who want to make you . . . EXPLODE?

Join in on the Hottest
locker room chat line
and Get It On with as
many hot & wild guys
As You Can Take !!!!

...go on, grab it and call now

1-800-773-HUNK (4865)
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Discover the country's HOTTEST new dateline with
hundreds of ready & willing studs to meet right in your area!

ONLY \$2 - \$3⁵⁰ per steamy minute - adults only (18+)

See the hottest guys in the USA...

visit www.lesbo.com and access men-on line.

photo: David Morgan

BEACH PARTY '97



"KA MANNA
WANNALAYA"

Friday, Feb. 28

dance club opens 9pm

DRINK TICKET
TO THOSE IN
BEACH ATTIRE

BIKINI CONTEST
AT MIDNIGHT

STONEWALL

28 n. Tenth Street • Allentown, PA • 610-432-0215